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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

January 2006 Volume 6; Issue 5

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A New Class to Build Bridges Between LABBB and High School

By Devaki Raj

Steven Thompson, LABBB administrator, in his efforts to create a closer relationship between the LABBB program (The special education program at LHS that stands for Lexington, Arlington, Bedford, Burlington and Belmont) and the High School, has constructed an "Introduction to Special Education" class. By offering this class, Thompson has provided high school students with a chance to volunteer in LABBB classes and work with LABBB teachers, speech therapists, and students. The LABBB program has been in Lexington for many years and is now composed of over 100 special needs students from surrounding towns. This particular class was originally the brainchild of Thompson and Dr. Van Seasholes (former High school principal), and was designed to be a collaboration between the high school and the LABBB program.

Students interested in taking the Introduction to Special Education class must have G2 and G4 blocks free. During these periods, Thomspon will instruct students on special education techniques and lead discussions on the various career options in Special Education. In addition to G2 and G4 blocks, Thompson will work with a student's counselor to find flexible volunteer hours based on his or her schedulel. Many of the current LABBB teachers were volunteers with the LABBB program, and were greatly

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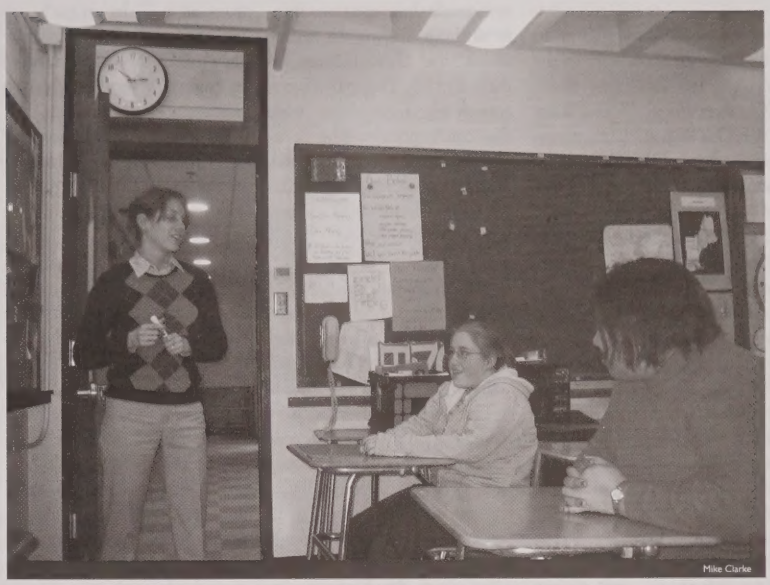

Mike Clarke

Ms. Wadman starts a typical day of class while special needs students Leelly Moran and Alexis Cofield listen on attentively.

LHS Radio to Rock Commons II

By Aditya Kanesa-thasan

When was the last time you played your music for an audience of 300?

If you're the average person, you probably never have. LHS Radio, a new club at Lexington High School, hopes to change that.

LHS Radio's goal is to give students a chance to run their own radio station and share their tastes in music with the school. Using a set of speakers set up in Commons II, student DJs will be able to play music from their own music collections during the three lunch blocks. The club would like to operate every Wednesday, but the day has not been finalized with the administration.

While faculty adviser Sean Hagan thinks that members of the club should have some control over the music to be played in the Commons, he acknowledges that there will be opportunities to request music and that the input of the whole student body will be taken into account.

Because of the increased use of iPods on campus, students are hearing less and less of the music that their peers listen to. A school radio station has the potential to bring students together and to serve as a common source of entertainment in which everybody has a say. LHS Radio hopes to premiere its first show by the end of January.

Students interested in fundraising, DJing or helping with the technical aspects of the show should contact Mr. Hagan at shagan@sch.ci.lexington.ma.us.

Teacher's Absence Leaves Questions

By Eric Eid-Reiner

Eric Schedin, popular music and band teacher at LHS, was not in school the week before vacation and,surprisingly, did not return to the high school after the winter vacation, leaving many students unsure of his status as their teacher. Schedin had been teaching beginning and continuing jazz classes, as well as the jazz big band and the symphonic band for the past five years.

When asked about what had happened to Schedin fellow faculty members expressed puzzlement. A source in the administration indicated that Schedin would probably be applying for a leave of absence, though he had not yet filed a letter of intent to do so as of this writing.

Both High School Principal Michael Jones and the Director of Human Resources for the Lexington Public Schools, Carol Ann Gregory, declined to comment on Schedin's absence. They each stated that such personal issues are confidential and it would not be appropriate for them to respond to media inquiries at this time. As far as the administration is concerned, they feel legally bound to honor a teacher's privacy in cases like this. Jones said that teachers take leaves of absence or voluntarily terminate their employment relatively often and usually will share their reasons with students or the general public only if they personally choose to.

The Musket tried unsuccessfully to reach Schedin for comment. Music students, and faculty alike commented that they found Schedin's departure to be rather sudden, especially considering that he appeared to be having a very productive year. Mikel McCavana, a sophomore in Schedin's Jazz Seminar class said, "I'm really surprised. It was totally unexpected.

During the week before vacation as well as the week after, Jeff Leonard, LHS jazz and band teacher of over twenty years, taught both his own classes and those of Mr. Schedin. On January 6, 2006, Justin Aramati, who was a student teacher at LHS in the music department from September to December 2005, was approved as a substitute for the music department as a whole (for any teacher) on an as-needed basis, and in that role, may teach Mr. Schedin's or any other absent music teacher's classes.

Jeff Leonard, the other LHS jazz and band teacher, commented that Schedin was an excellent musician and teacher, who brought a "unique set of skills to the music department."

Students in the music program described Mr. Schedin as "an amazing teacher," "a good guy," and someone with a killer sense of humor, and hope that he is all right, and will return to teaching at LHS.

Inside this Issue:

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Superfans - Winter teams get a boost from devoted fans. PAGE 6

Be a Book Worm! Five books from 2005. PAGE 4

Word Wizard? - Try the Crossword. PAGE 2

FEATURES

Alternative Publication Gains Ground, But Faces Criticism

By Catherine Kim

With entries ranging in subject from snow days to the Yankees to President Bush, Whatever the F*** You Want (WETFYW), an LHS magazine, contains the most wide-ranging and irregular topics of any literary circulation at LHS. It features drawings, short stories, essays, critiques of previously published essays, and literally anything the writers want to add.

The editors, a mysterious and unnamed group, have published two issues so far this year. The most recent issue includes the articles Ode to Nice Guys, Tips on Dealing with the Fallout of a Miscalled Snow Day, Pondering the Meaning of Existence, The Substitute, and several others.

Its objective is to create a new forum for discussion where writers would be able to express their opinions freely without having to worry about the consequences of their writing. The magazine is completely anonymous, with the catch phrase "the writer may be your best friend, teacher, classmate, administrator, coach, or worst enemy. You will never know." Such anonymity allows for publication of controversial pieces that wouldn't find an audience elsewhere. Senior Will Liu, described the content as "a little excessive."

The anonymity bothers some students on a different level. Senior Eva Rosenberg says, "I don't understand why the articles are anonymous. If the authors are brave enough to say whatever the f*** they want, they should be brave enough to identify themselves."

The magazine has faced criticism from other directions as well. In an early entry, the editors recount how they tried to recruit writers by posting flyers on the free posting area in commons one. They claim that the next day the flyers were ripped down by the administration.

Another glitch seems to be in its method of circulation. WETFYW is distributed mostly by hand, thus only about one out of every five students has even heard of the magazine.

According to Librarian Susan Lum, this year's editors haven't left copies to be available in the library.

When asked for his opinion, Junior Suopeng Gao replied, "I think it's a good thing, that people are able to express themselves." Senior Sei Harris agrees, commenting that the magazine "had some decent stuff."

Bite Size: Boloco

East meets West and lots of other places at this Harvard Square restaurant

By Sasha Wilson

Recently renamed from "The Wrap" to "Boloco," this restaurant's food is still as good as ever. Located on 71 Mt. Auburn Street in Harvard Square, this petite joint carries a wide selection of "inspired burritos."

Drawing on culinary influences from the East, Mediterranean and even the American South-West, Boloco serves ten distinct varieties of burrito, each of which can be modified with the addition of meat, guacamole, or tofu. Selling at about five dollars, the regular-sized burrito is large enough to sate the average hunger. With names like "The Bangkok" or "The Cajun," each burrito incorporates an entire meal into a flour or whole-wheat tortilla. This unique dining experience, all food in a comfortable to eat tortilla, is both portable and convenient.

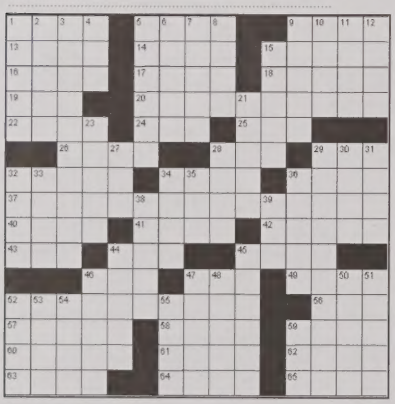
Boloco's menu not only includes mouth-watering burritos, but smoothies of every description. The smoothies, like the burritos, run the gamut flavor-wise from "The Jimmy Carter," a peanut butter banana delight, to "The-Cape Codder," a blend of cranberries, raspberries and blueberries. "Enhancers," such as "whey protein" or "fat burner" can be added to any smoothie so that the beverage is not only good, but good for you.

And if a burrito just won't cut the mustard, Boloco serves soups and salads as well as catering a breakfast menu. The salads, including The Greek or the Chinese Chicken Salad, are priced between four to six dollars, and the daily soup selection is served in two sizes.

On the go, or at one of the dining tables, Boloco is the perfect place for an inspired burrito craving. For more information visit http://www.inspiredburritos.com/.

Crossword Puzzle

By Garrett Bernstein and Chris Chaffee



Across
1. Sluggin' Sammy
5. Ravine reply
9. Shopping or golf conveyor
13. Drinks as a dog
14. Pride member
15. Enjoy a taste
16. Question beginners
17. Shrek, eg.
18. Scent
19. Golf starting point
20. Died
22. Swirl of water
24. Poetic contraction
25. Make a lap
26. Byway
28. Consumed
29. Humble abode
32. Minute
34. Baking or pop
36. Mediocre
37. Died
40. Angers
41. Dodge trucks
42. Soft leather
43. Average
44. 7-Down morsel
45. Canine Tramp's companion
46. Chem. normal conditions
47. Apple or pumpkin
49. Practice fight
52. Died
56. Mine find
57. Alert
58. While lead-in
59. Similar
60. Cycler
61. Chills and fever
62. Birdhouse
63. Again
64. Lecherous look
65. Colors

Down
1. A clean _____ (start over)
2. Rowed
3. Cartoon car driver
4. Donkey
5. Ran away
6. Tobacco product
7. Basketball game
8. Washington's bills
9. Gold measure
10. Solemnly swear
11. Italia capital
12. School lunch holder
15. _____ Hawkins Dance
21. Founded, briefly
23. Chicken fetuses
27. Pub potable
28. Fruit drinks
29. That's what it's all about?
30. Operated
31. Carry
32. Cut (class)
33. Bog down
34. ERA or RBI
35. Resistance unit
36. Gulf War missiles
38. Lay across
39. Britain's former child
44. Not this one?
45. Envelope content
46. Scatter
47. Cleanse
48. Topic
50. Stand up
51. Tenant's payments
52. Middle Eastern meal, with ganoush
53. Game-ending phrase
54. Seize
55. Bargain
59. Common conjunction

For answers to this issue's puzzle, please email TheMusket@yahoo.com

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Corrections:

In an editorial entitled "Students Suffer as Stress Mounts," which appeared in the December 2005 issue of The Musket it was stated that the "administration has mandated that senior English classes become leveled next year." This statement incorrectly characterized changes currently being discussed for future senior English classes.

As of this writing the only change proposed for next year is that the English Department will offer a class called Advanced Literary Studies whose description states that it will prepare students to take the A.P. test in English Literature and Composition.

This course along with all other senior English classes, will be designated as unleveled.

In an editorial entitled "Anything Goes: The College Process and Its Manipulators," which appeared in the November 2005 issue of The Musket, the acronym GYBSO was said to stand for Greater Youth Boston Senior Orchestra. In actual fact, the acronym stands for Greater Youth Boston Symphony Orchestra.

EDITORIALS

Signing the Honor Code: An Unwelcome Lesson in Morality

By Josiah Reibstein

Lexington High School has always preached its zero tolerance policy towards cheating. There's an entire section in the handbook, reprinted every year, which warns against gaining any unfair advantages over other students by any means. Ironically, the plagiarism section of our honor code is often copied word-for-word by individual teachers in class policy packets at the beginning of the school year. Today, Lexington took the next superfluous step - it forced students to sign a paper detailing the policies they had already known from the past years.

How much is this really going to help curb unethical behavior in LHS? The policies are already pretty plainly stated by teachers and administrators, and anyone who has been paying attention knows that cheating isn't condoned - whether or not students think it's the right thing to do.

> ...Anyone who has been paying attention knows that cheating isn't condoned - whether or not students think it's the right thing to do.

Despite previously set regulations, students cheat everyday, on things as small as pop quizzes and as large as college applications. The more we cheat in school, the more we're threatened by the administration. Zeros on tests. Suspension. Expulsion. Obviously!

Being threatened with an F doesn't cause the student body to want to preserve its collective integrity. The administration can't expect students to learn about their moral responsibilities if they are continuously scared into making the right decisions.

The most ridiculous aspect of the homeroom sheet was the fact that it forced students to sign something that they may not have wanted to. The administration should not think that they have to spoon-feed fundamental rules to students who are already driving cars and getting ready to pack up for MIT, Harvard, and Cornell. It's not the school's responsibility to make sure that young adults recognize the immorality of cheating.

Perhaps it is the school's responsibility to give students a good reason not to cheat, and preferably one that does not involve further condescension and intimidation.

As soon as a friend received this handout, he immediately threw it aside and said "I'm not signing this," not because he routinely cheats, but because he was insulted by the arrogance of the idea. Of course his response was greeted by the promise of detention and a warning that "his administrator would track him down." Threats again, which, as most of the school knows, amount to very little.

What's Hot and What's Not

By Josiah Reibstein and Rachel Kase

HOT

The Wall of Rejection: While this recent addition to the school cafeteria is an outlet for anger, its more important function is to foster camaraderie among seniors.

Brokeback Mountain: Avoiding romance cliches, this sweeping tale of forbidden love will appeal to any interested movie-goer - no matter what gender or sexual orientation (see review on page 4).

A Healthy Sleep Schedule: You got a taste of it over vacation, and you probably won't see it again until Spring Break.

SDFSDFSDF

Johnny Damon

NOT

Bush's Wire Tapping: With his blatant ignorance of constitutional law and a swipe at the American values he preaches to be "protecting," the President has certainly crossed the line.

Lexington Winter Weather: You know it has arrived when the school transforms into an army of models for North Face fleeces and Ugg boots. From bundling up like an Eskimo every morning to trudging outside from class to class on the "California" style campus, there are few perks to this long, cold season except snow days.

Johnny Damon: Now clean-shaven and with a conservative haircut, Damon seems to have tactfully forgotten that in 2004, he proclaimed that playing for the Red Sox was more important than his paycheck.

NEWS: SENATE UPDATE

- The senate recently agreed to send a memo to Dr. Michael Jones to clarify the school's policy of cancelled classes. Many students and teachers feel that substitutes are costing LHS more money than necessary.
- In addition, a teacher introduced the idea of the Median Grade Reporting Bill. This bill brings up the possibility of reporting the median grade of the class on the reports cards as information to the parents.

New Class Builds • FROM PAGE 1

influenced by their volunteer work when choosing Special Education as a career path.

Thompson has participated in many activities as a liaison between LHS, Minuteman Tech, and the LABBB program. He is a coordinator of both the Special Olympics and Best Buddies.

The latter is an international program aimed at providing long lasting relationships between those who have intellectual disabilities and their non-disabled peers. Thompson proudly states that LHS and the LABBB program, together, have the largest Best Buddies program in the country.

More information on the class can be found in either the Course Handbook or at the LABBB office in the Math Building

HUMOR

The DOS and DON'TS of the College Process

By Edith Shi and Rachel Kase

DO:

•Warmly congratulate your friends who have been accepted into college, even if you are green with envy and firmly convinced you will never be the recipient of an acceptance letter. Living vicariously through luckier friends is healthier and cheaper than repeated sessions of binge eating.

•Proudly post your rejection letter(s) on the Wall of Rejection. Depression and rejection love company. It's one of the few times at Lexington when the students can bond over their failures. Encourage your friends to publicly debase your rejection letters by writing and drawing on the original document.

•Remember your manners when oblivious adults or underclassmen dare to ask you where you are applying or why you aren't applying to Elitist Institution X. "Ughhh, you are the millionth person to ask me that!" probably doesn't qualify as a polite response. While it's too late for the adults, the underclassmen will feel your pain in a matter of years. When their time comes, feel free to innocently ask them about their college process.

•Take advantage of second semester of senior year. Colleges only ask for "mid-year reports" and mid-year is in a few short weeks! Cut out this article and save it for April, when anxieties return. Until then, get some sleep, spend time with your friends, and explore all of the great household uses of textbooks (i.e. doorjambs, paperweights, coasters etc.)

DON'T:

•Buy a new wardrobe of college gear after you are accepted. In fact, your peers would probably appreciate a one to two month grace period before they saw your new sweatshirt at all. And a word to the wise: the kid fully decked out in Blah University sweatshirt, sweatpants, flip-flops, and lanyard tends to look more like a pretentious and delusional (and possibly insecure) underclassman than someone who knows that she's already gotten in and can relax.

•Demand a list of schools from each of your friends. There is a small possibility that they don't want to tell you where they are applying or that they don't want to talk about it at all.

•Moan that you would rather die than attend your safety school. For all you know, it is the dream school of the kid sitting behind you. The application process is stressful enough already, and no one needs to feel more hopeless and inadequate.

•Give your classmates a daily update of how many days are left until you receive your decision. They would probably prefer to be kept in suspense. Plus, if you get rejected, you won't have to report back to a large audience. Rumor mills, a wall of rejection, and universal lists of who's applying to what schools already exist, so there is no need to spread the news yourself. Trust the system.

•Despair or decide to live in a van down by the river for the rest of your life. (Hopefully) everything will all work out. If it doesn't, accept your failure with open arms. Most of us could probably use a year off, anyway.

•Talk loudly in open spaces about how so and so didn't deserve to get accepted. As seniors, we should be supportive of each other in the admissions process, which is often such a crapshoot. Besides, you should have learned by now to take bad-mouthing to more private areas.

Brokeback Mountain is A Movie of Few Words, But Still Packs a Punch

By Eric Eid-Reiner

Brokeback Mountain, directed by Ang Lee, is based on Annie Proulx's short story of the same title. The story ran in The New Yorker in 1997, winning the magazine the National Magazine Award for fiction. The film takes place in rural Wyoming in 1963, and tells the story of the evolution of the relationship between Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal) and Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger), two ranch hands who meet when they both take a sheep herding job on Brokeback Mountain one summer.

Jack is more outspoken, while Ennis is a man of rather solemn expression and few words. As they spend more time together, isolated from the outside world, the two begin to grow closer. There are subtle clues that Jack has his eye on Ennis, and the two eventually come to have more visible feelings for each other. They don't discuss their relationship at all, with the exception of Ennis declaring "I'm not queer" and Jack responding, "Me neither."

Their first sexual encounter is wordless and intense. This was anything but the typical, cheesy love scene; there was no soft music, nor any particularly apparent emotional build-up. It became clear that the outwardly dispassionate love scene shows the two expressing their emotions in the only way they find themselves able at the time. Ledger and Gyllenhaal, as well as director Lee, did an amazing job with this scene, and really capture the impulse and suddenness of the moment. Like Ennis, the movie is quiet and reserved. It lets it's imagery do the talking and doesn't rely on dialogue to propel the story.

Both characters marry, and the portrayal of their wives (Michelle Williams and Anne Hathaway) are almost as flawless as the two main characters. Williams in particular is fantastic as Alma, Ennis' young wife who wonders why all his "fishing trips" with Jack never produce any fish.

A few well placed flashbacks give a painful image to viewers of the violent and cruel treatment of gay people that Ennis had witnessed during his life, and explain part of his fear – for his life and reputation – over the idea of others knowing of his attraction to Jack. These scenes emotionally grab the audience because it brings up issues of fear and violence still facing GLBTIQ people today.

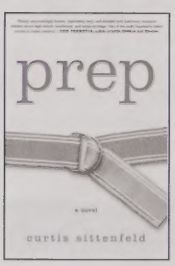
The sparse, tasteful music in the movie, much of it composed by Gustavo Santaolalla, is rooted in folk, country, and bluegrass – certainly a part of the culture of the rural West – and matches the plotline and setting perfectly. There are also many points in the movie where nothing is said, and there is no music, reflecting the simplicity and solemnity of the mountains and the Western way of life.

Heath Ledger (left) and Jake Gyllenhaal star as lovers in the wrong place at the wrong time in Ang Lee's Brokeback Mountain.

Five Fantastic Books from '05

By Emily Moss

Prep by Curtis Sittenfeld – A classic story of a "fish out of water," *Prep* perfectly captures the pitfalls of being a smart teenaged girl stuck outside the mainstream. Lee Fiora, the novel's angsty but articulate main character, describes in excruciating detail her life as a scholarship student at pricey, preppy Ault Academy and her bizarre relationship with big-man-on-campus Cross Sugarman.



Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close by Jonathan Safran Foer – The hero of Foer's drama is nine-year-old Oskar Schell. After his father is killed in the 9/11 attacks, Oskar treks around New York City following "clues" he thinks his father left for him. With the help of his grandparents, Oskar reexamines a post-911 America through the eyes of a child.

Smashed: Story of a Drunken Girlhood by Koren Vailckas – This autobiography is one part diary, one part confessional, and one part warning. It describes each and every step on the path that led Vailckas from a social sipper to blackout drinker before her twenty-second birthday. Although a tad melodramatic, it still packs a punch.

Jarhead by Anthony Swofford – Be forewarned: *Jarhead* is not a book about men at war, but rather a book about boys waiting for a war. It is about sand and sun. It is about patriotism, camaraderie, and growing up. Swofford gets inside the heads of these desert boys with such ease, because he was one. He knows what they yearn for, what they fear, and why they're there. This memoir is often hilarious, occasionally disturbing, and always enlightening.

On Beauty by Zadie Smith – Britain's wonderchild strikes again. After catching the literary world's attention with 2000's White Teeth, Smith offers up a daring, expansive, and familial drama. A white British professor, his black American wife, and their three teenaged children negotiate race, class, sex, art, and education against the backdrop of a New England college town.

If those five aren't enough to keep you occupied, here's more of the best of 2005: *Shadow of the Giant* by Orson Scott Card, *Zorro* by Isabel Allende, *Son of a Witch* by Gregory Maguire, and *Saturday* by Ian McEwan.

Local Band Watch: The Receiving End of Sirens (TREOS)

By Helen Shapiro

The Receiving End of Sirens (TREOS) is an excellent local rock band consisting of five talented musicians. Although they released their first full-length album on Triple Crown Records in April, they continue to work full time promoting the CD. The title of their album, "Between the Heart and the Synapse," is taken from the lyrics of one of their songs, "Armistice." "Between the Heart and the Synapse" is a concept album that considers the changes one goes through while dealing with weaknesses. It ends on a positive note, an attempt by the band to symbolize overcoming vices.

TREOS plays hardcore rock and occasionally dabbles in experimental rock as well. Most of their songs take advantage of their three singers by adding a schizophrenic dimension using overlaid vocals. They also sing in harmony, which is uncharacteristic of other bands in this genre. Through most of their songs the guitar parts are dominant or co-dominant with the vocals. They have also been known to experiment with synthesizing equipment.

TREOS has an extremely loyal Boston fan base, and most local fans have seen five or more shows in the past year or two. The down-to-earth band members love the Boston scene and have been known to give shout-outs to the familiar faces in the crowd. Despite their growing success and the rigors of being on tour constantly, they manage to stay up to date with their fans by updating weblogs. They are currently on tour with Alexisonfire, A Wilhelm Scream, and Idiot Pilot. The band is currently signed up to play the Taste of Chaos tour in February of 2006.

Top 10 Resolutions You Know You Won't Keep

By Kelly Siegel

1. Do better in school: Pull out your books, get comfy, and actually do all the homework you get.
2. Eat better: Sadly, after a week or two, that box of Oreos starts to look really good.
3. Get more sleep: If only the administration would give us a hand with this one.
4. Exercise more: Why do you always feel like the least fit, most out of place person at the gym?
5. Don't procrastinate: You've all had those nights when you've got 12 pages, 8 hours, and no clue what you're supposed to be writing about.
6. Save money: A college education is expensive, but so is lunch off campus every day.
7. Drink more water: It's good for you, and it gives you an excuse to leave class.
8. Give up (insert that thing you know you need a lot less of here): An addiction is an addiction, and what better time than now to get rid of it?
9. Get along with your parents better: The same parents who gave you an 11 o'clock curfew on New Year's Eve?
10. Read more: As if schoolwork wasn't enough, now you have to read for fun?

Boys' Hockey Begins Season with a Kick

By Simon Lehar

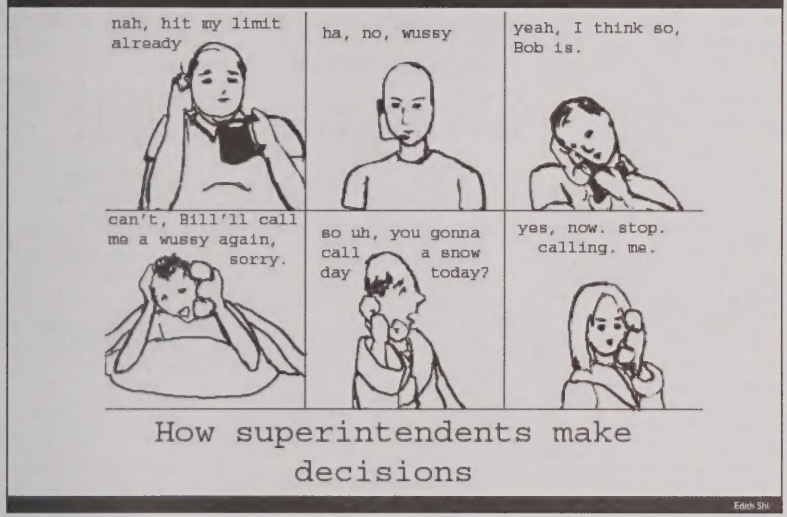
After a successful season last year, the Lexington boys' hockey team has started this season off with a 4-2-1 record. So far, the boys have outscored opponents 19-12 thanks in large part to co-Captain Bart Tocci, who leads the team with 4 goals, and sophomore Tyler Gelnaw and senior Matt Ellis, who have three goals a piece. Junior Chris Stratford has also added two, and Freddy Janney, Eliot Rosenfield, David Robinson, and Nick Pisegna have contributed with one goal each. Captain Ryan Gelnaw has a goal and an assist as well. Forward Bryan Woodward has been the set up man with two assists this season, and key play by forwards Brian Byrnes, Andy Bergmann, Brendan Casey, and Cory Woodward has the Minutemen working like a well-oiled machine.

On the other side of the ice, Captain Alex Abramo and his defensive crew of Andrew Johnson, Chris Woodward, Pat Keegan, Chris Stratford, Michael Gabriner, and J.J. Wentzell have held opposing teams to two shutouts. Thus far, the team has beaten Stoneham, Melrose, Waltham, and Wakefield. The recent win over Waltham was a great achievement, as Waltham had participated in the Super 8 Hockey Tournament last year. Goalie John Bienkowski had a great game in the net, deterring 23 shots to earn his first shutout of the season. After a scoreless first period, the Minutemen exploded in the second period on both offense and defense. Alex Abramo and Nick Pisegna laid monstrous hits on two unsuspecting Waltham players, and Ryan Gelnaw took a pass from his brother, Tyler, and screamed the puck over the shoulder of Waltham's goalie. After a major penalty on Lexington's David Robinson, the LHS defense generated sufficient protection against the Waltham offense. More breathing room was provided by Chris Stratford, who netted the second goal of the game to put the Minutemen up 2-0. The game against Waltham tested the Minutemen on both sides of the puck; they met the challenge, and showed that they are clearly a force to be reckoned with on the ice.

Mike Clarke

Forward junior Andy Bergmann breaks down the ice in a tough game against Woburn.

HUMOR


nah, hit my limit already
ha, no, wussy
yeah, I think so, Bob is.
can't, Bill'll call me a wussy again, sorry.
so uh, you gonna call a snow day today?
yes, now. stop. calling. me.
How superintendents make decisions

Edith Shi

Both Track Teams Remain Undefeated

By Andrew Snyder

As we enter the middle of the Indoor Track season, both the boys' and girls' teams are undefeated and looking forward to their meets with Reading that will likely determine the Middlesex League title. At 4-0, the boys' team has dominated the competition thus far, thanks to notable performances by Alex Lach, Darius Walker, Meikle Paschal, Tim Kim, and captains Willi Ballenthin, David Smoot, and Mark Liu.

The girls' team (5-0) has also yet to be challenged, and has used its depth to excel against its Middlesex League competition. Captains Jess Batty, Libby Mislan, and Sharikka Finley-Moise have led the pack, while Jaclyn Harvell, Marisa Fiore, Kathrine Foster, Erika Chan, and Naomi Campbell have made notable contributions. Although the Minutemen have been dominant this year, the squads of Reading have also encountered much success; the showdown for the Middlesex League title this year is shaping up to be another entertaining chapter in the epic Lexington-Reading rivalry.

Offbeat Athlete of the Month: Kelsey Savage

By Arjun Gokhale

Ever since she was five years old and needed a boost to mount her first horse, Errol Flynn, Kelsey Savage has dreamt of being a competitive rider. Eight horses later and with numerous awards to her name, she has certainly achieved that goal. Kelsey had a great year in 2005, finishing second at the South East Horseman's Association, a competition that riders from all over the Northeast attend. She also brought home a third place finish in the Kingston Trailer Finals.

Horseback riding is definitely in her blood, and she was encouraged by her mother, Cindy, to become a rider. Her mother's love of casual horsemanship inspired her to get Kelsey involved. Once Kelsey got a taste of competition at age eight, she found she loved it, and now seems to be seeing more and more of the arena and less of the pastoral setting.

After a rough start with horses, Kelsey is now beginning to master the sport. When she first started riding Errol, he was very young and just as inexperienced as she was. In those early days, Kelsey was frequently thrown off the horse, but these tough experiences made her a much braver rider and afforded her the confidence to ride any horse, no matter how unruly.

A few years ago Kelsey initiated an ambitious project: turning her new horse, Blue, into a national champion. Don't be deceived, however, for completing such equestrian tasks is no walk in the park.

A common misconception holds that riding is not a sport, and requires little effort. Tell that to any rider and you're sure to get back an angry scowl. Kelsey trains for several hours three days a week, and the competitions themselves take anywhere from one to three days.

The graded areas of movement and form have to be perfected, and one must master the feat of jumping over a three and a half foot high bar. Not only does riding teach sportsmanship and competitiveness, but it fosters a loving relationship between the horse and the rider and thus goes beyond the boundaries of most conventional sports.

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and decided to continue with their dedicated display of support. "We have chants for lots of players now, and even though we're still called "Mellis' Madhouse," we're really there to support the whole hockey team, and not just one player."

Obviously, this type of fan support is always appreciated by the respective teams. The records of the boys' basketball and hockey teams reflect it, with the basketball team going 6-0 and the hockey team being 6-1 at the time of this writing. While much of this success can be attributed to the great play of the teams, one cannot underestimate the fan factor.

The feeling of being in a distant town with an unfavorable crowd can really be a downer, which makes having a dedicated fan base all the more important.

Hopefully, the fans will continue to show such tremendous support for the sports teams for seasons to come.

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the game when she skated the length of the ice and slipped in an empty netter with a minute left to play. Lexington killed off four penalties in fifteen minutes. The defense, consisting of Captain Allie Robinson, Haley Busa, and Sarah Doxsey, kept Belmont out of the its offensive zone for most of the game.

On the last day of 2005, the Minutemen played the Wakefield Warriors. With about four minutes left in the opening frame, the Warriors scored. Lexington answered when Hankins wristed a shot, going top shelf. Lexington scored twice in the second, thanks to goals by Riley and Busa that propelled the team to a 3-2 victory. Lexington's stout defense kept the puck on the other side of the ice, allowing the Minutemen to outshoot the Warriors thirty-six to six. Lexington then went to Winchester where they beat the Sachems by a score of five to one. The Minutemen overall have outscored their opponents 18 to 3. The defense, so far, has been the strong part of the team; if they can continue to play at this high level, the girls have a great chance of winning the Middlesex League title.

Boys' Basketball Team Dominates the League

By Stuart Easton

Poised and ready to meet all comers in the very strong Middlesex League, the boys' basketball team has begun its season with a bang. Under the leadership of senior captain Jimmy O'Keefe and junior Thomas Henneberry, the Minutemen are off to a 6-1 start, going 5-0 in the Middlesex League. So far the Minutemen have won League games against Stoneham, Belmont, Melrose, Wakefield, and Woburn. Thanks in large part to O'Keefe's 19 points per game, Henneberry's 18 points per game, and a deep bench that is capable of scoring with the best of them, the Minutemen look like the team to beat in the Middlesex League.

So far this year, Lexington's biggest game was a Friday night match-up in Woburn. This game featured the 15th and 20th teams in Eastern Massachusetts, as ranked by the Boston Globe, and it lived up to its billing. The two teams went back and forth, with the Minutemen pulling away in the end thanks to some clutch free-throw shooting and stellar play from Henneberry, who netted 23 points and pulled down a game-high 13 rebounds. After going in to halftime up 17, the Minutemen were able to hold off the charge of Woburn and junior Greg Calrusso, winning by the final score of 78-66.

O'Keefe was his usual dominating self, with 26 points and 12 rebounds. Senior Dane Diliegro, who had 9 points and nine rebounds, aided O'Keefe in his efforts down low.

The next great game was a battle between Lexington and Belmont, as number 15 Lexington faced number 18 Belmont. Again, the Minutemen relied on the outside shooting of Henneberry (18 points and 8 rebounds), and the inside play of O'Keefe and Diliegro, who contributed 18 points, 14 rebounds and 10 points, 15 rebounds, respectively. Other highlights include the stellar play of point guard Sean Sullivan, who controlled the tempo of the game and went five for five on late game foul shots, and the contributions of junior Ross Curley, who chipped in 7 points and 7 assists. In the end, all of the team's efforts resulted in a 62-53 Lexington victory. In addition to these games, Lexington has looked sharp beating Stoneham 104-39, Melrose 80-23, and Wakefield 80-44.

Mike Clarke

Tom Henneberry fades away for a jump shot over a helpless Winchester defender.

Throughout the season to date, Lexington has seen strong play from senior Stuart Easton and junior Mike Andryauskas down low, while senior Danny Joseph and sophomores Jake Brown and Brian Johnson have done well off the bench.

Also making surprising strides this year are freshmen Lance Greene and Danny O'Keefe, who show maturity beyond their years when in the game. All in all, the strong play of the starters coupled with the excellent play off the bench has this Lexington team dominating opponents, and sitting alone in first place in the Middlesex League.

If this is any indication of what is to come, we should expect big things from this experienced group.

Girls Hockey Setting Sights on League Title

Mike Clarke

Captain Alli Robertson battles for the puck against a Watertown defender.

By Mike Grossi

The Lexington girls' hockey team has demonstrated its dominance by starting the season undefeated with a 4-0 record. The team blanked their first two opponents, beating Stoneham with seven goals and Belmont with three. The keys to such victories have been defense and goaltending. Senior netminder Libby Jauvtis is arguably one of the best goalies around. Every game she gives the team an opportunity to win, making save after save. In the Belmont game, the first two periods were a stalemate. But then, forty five seconds into the final frame, forward Kristina Hankins took the puck and shot a wicked wrist shot into the back of the Belmont net. The goal was of the shorthanded variety, coming with ten seconds left on a Belmont power play. This was only the beginning of a tough final period. The Minutemen endured a double major penalty and a minor, but were able to kill them both off. Jauvtis, a co-captain, had twenty saves in a sensational performance. The team took a two goal advantage when Hankins served up a beautiful pass to Leah Riley, who, in turn, slapped a shot past the Belmont goalie. Riley netted her second goal of

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Swimmers Glide to a Strong Start

By Stuart Grimes

The LHS boys' swim team started the season off strong with three consecutive wins in defense of their Middlesex League title, with a standing of 4-1. The Minutemen won the season-opening meet against the Melrose Red Raiders 53-36, due in large part to the incredible efforts of a few upperclassmen and the relay team. Senior Jack Justice placed first in the 200-yard freestyle with and senior captain Dan Sheridan took first place in the 200-yard individual medley. Defending state champion, senior Matt O'Brien, got off to another excellent start by winning the 100-yard butterfly. The team of Michael Pogram, Kevin Cheng, Ben Amsel and Tyler Hersey won the 200-yard medley relay.

Lexington continued its victorious streak with a first-ever win over the Chelmsford Lions 90-78. In another non-league contest Lexington earned a victory 87-81 over Xavarian Brother H.S. The Minutemen finally tasted defeat as they fell to St. Johns Prep 93-75. Despite the loss, the team managed to win all the relays and enjoyed three first place finishes. O'Brien placed first in the 100-yard butterfly and the 200-yard individual medley. Lowen took the top slot with a time of 23.34 seconds in the 50-yard freestyle. The medley relay team made up of Sheridan, O'Brien, Apoorv Kumar and Steven Chiang earned a first place finish as well. The swim team returned to its winning ways by defeating Lowell 90-70, thus earning its fourth victory.

"Super Fans" Help Winter Sports Teams Excel

By Kevin Slane

This winter has been great for Lexington sports; every team has been very successful, outplaying everyone's expectations and rendering this writer's ill-advised predictions inaccurate. While all teams have certainly seen an increase in talent, another factor that may be leading to such great performances is the passion and exuberance of the fans. This year, Lexington sports have been supported by fans unlike any from years past. In addition to large fan bases at home and away games, special groups have formed for the sole purpose of rooting for the teams. The boys' basketball team has had the "Superfans" to support them, a group composed of over 100 members on any given night. With their matching T-shirts and their raucous antics, the Superfans liven up every game for the Minutemen.

But the Superfans are not the only fan group to make their presence felt this season. The boys' hockey team has had a fan club of its own, named "Mellis' Madhouse," after one of the starters on the team, Matt "Mellis" Ellis. This so called Madhouse routinely makes signs for all of the players, and travels to games both home and away. With its creative cheers and T-shirts used to spell "M-E-L-L-I-S," the Madhouse has rivaled the Superfans' creativity and passion for their team. Josh Frishberg, the "E" in "M-E-L-L-I-S," elaborates on how the group started: "Basically my friends and I heard that Mellis was going to sing the national anthem at one of the games. He's a pretty goofy guy, so we all collectively agreed to make our shirts spell 'Mellis'." After the first game, however, Frishberg and his friends noticed how well they were received,

Mike Clarke

LHS Superfans show their support for the boys basketball team in a game against Melrose.

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